

CLAIMS:

1. A system for visually mapping a project comprising a plurality of tasks (TASK01-TASK05) and a plurality of resources (RESOURCE01-RESOURCE07), each resource being available for handling, executing or otherwise processing one or more of the tasks, wherein a relationship between a respective task and a respective resource is described by a respective relationship identifier, the system comprising:

a processing unit adapted for receiving data records of the plurality of tasks and resources together with the respective relationship identifiers, and for representing the plurality of tasks in a first dimension of a matrix and the plurality of resources in a second dimension of the matrix, wherein each relationship identifier is represented at the interconnection or point of intersection between represented task and resource corresponding to that relationship identifier.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein each task and each resource is described by a data record comprising one or more characteristic features or properties thereof, and at least one of the relationship identifiers is associated a corresponding data record of the task or the resource.

3. The system of claim 1 or 2, wherein at least one of the resources is one of an individual person, a group of persons, a department, a function, a competency, or any other type of entity found appropriate to circumscribe an actor of the project.

4. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein at least one of the relationships between task and resource is an assignment, so that the resource is assigned to the task, or a non-assignment, so that the resource is not assigned to the task.

5. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein the processing unit is further adapted for specifying a type, nature or kind of the relationship.

6. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein the processing unit is further adapted for representing each different type, nature or kind of the relationship by a different type of relationship identifier.
- 5 7. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein the processing unit is further adapted for representing at least one of the relationship identifiers as a dot or similar geometrical figure.
8. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein the processing unit is further adapted for representing all relationship identifiers relating to one task by a connected line or similar connection.
- 10 9. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein the processing unit is further adapted for arranging the tasks in accordance to defined relationships between the tasks such as temporal relationships and/or priorities.
- 15 10. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein the processing unit is further adapted for indicating dependencies between tasks.
11. The system according to claim 10, wherein the processing unit is further adapted for indicating dependencies between tasks by using pointers or arrows.
- 20 12. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein the processing unit is further adapted for grouping a plurality of the resources together and representing those grouped resources as one resource group.
13. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein the processing unit is further adapted for grouping a plurality of the tasks together and representing those grouped tasks as one task group.
- 25 14. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein the processing unit is further adapted for analyzing the matrix and providing a plausibility check for detecting and/or indicating potential failures.
15. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein the

processing unit is further adapted for providing an indication for the state of one or more of the tasks.

16. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein the processing unit is further adapted for representing the tasks by parallel lines in the first matrix dimension and the resources by parallel lines in the second matrix dimension.

17. The system according to claim 16, wherein the first matrix dimension is substantially perpendicular to the second matrix dimension.

18. The system according to claim 1 or any one of the above claims, wherein the processing unit is further adapted for providing two or more different projects in a joint representation, wherein the first and second matrix dimensions are each represented substantially parallel to each other.

19. A method for visually mapping a project comprising a plurality of tasks (TASK01-TASK05) and a plurality of resources (RESOURCE01-RESOURCE07), each resource being available for handling, executing or otherwise processing one or more of the tasks, wherein a relationship between a respective task and a respective resource is described by a respective relationship identifier, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving data records of the plurality of tasks and resources together with the respective relationship identifiers,

representing the plurality of tasks in a first dimension of a matrix,

representing the plurality of resources in a second dimension of the matrix, and

representing each relationship identifier at the interconnection or point of intersection between represented task and resource corresponding to that relationship identifier.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising one or more of the following steps:
specifying a type, nature or kind of the relationship,

representing each different type, nature or kind of the relationship by a different type of relationship identifier,

representing at least one of the relationship identifiers as a dot or similar geometrical figure,

5 representing all relationship identifiers relating to one task by a connected line or similar connection,

arranging the tasks in accordance to defined relationships between the tasks such as temporal relationships and/or priorities,

indicating dependencies between tasks preferably using pointers or arrows,

10 grouping a plurality of the resources together and representing those grouped resources as one resource group,

grouping a plurality of the tasks together and representing those grouped tasks as one task group,

15 analyzing the matrix and providing a plausibility check for detecting and/or indicating potential failures,

providing an indication for the state of one or more of the tasks,

20 representing the tasks by parallel lines in the first matrix dimension and the resources by parallel lines in the second matrix dimension, wherein the first matrix dimension is preferably substantially perpendicular to the second matrix dimension,

providing two or more different projects in a joint representation, wherein the first and second matrix dimensions are each represented substantially parallel to each other.

21. A method comprising the steps of:

25 receiving information about a provided visual mapping of a project comprising a

plurality of tasks (TASK01-TASK05) and a plurality of resources (RESOURCE01-RESOURCE07), each resource being available for handling, executing or otherwise processing one or more of the tasks, wherein a relationship between a respective task and a respective resource is described by a respective relationship identifier, wherein the plurality of tasks are represented in a first dimension of a matrix, the plurality of resources are represented in a second dimension of the matrix, and each relationship identifier are represented at the interconnection or point of intersection between represented task and resource corresponding to that relationship identifier, and

deriving from the received information data records of the plurality of tasks and resources together with the respective relationship identifiers.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

analyzing the representations of the plurality of tasks in the first dimension of the matrix and the plurality of resources in the second dimension of the matrix, together with the representation of each relationship identifier at the interconnection between each represented task and resource in the matrix, respectively.

23. A software program or product, preferably stored on a data carrier, for executing the method of claim 6 or any one of the claims 7-23, when run on a data processing system such as a computer.